

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

**ENERGY FACILITIES SITING BOARD
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**

**NOTICE OF ADJUDICATION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING**

EFSB 15-04/D.P.U. 15-140/15-141

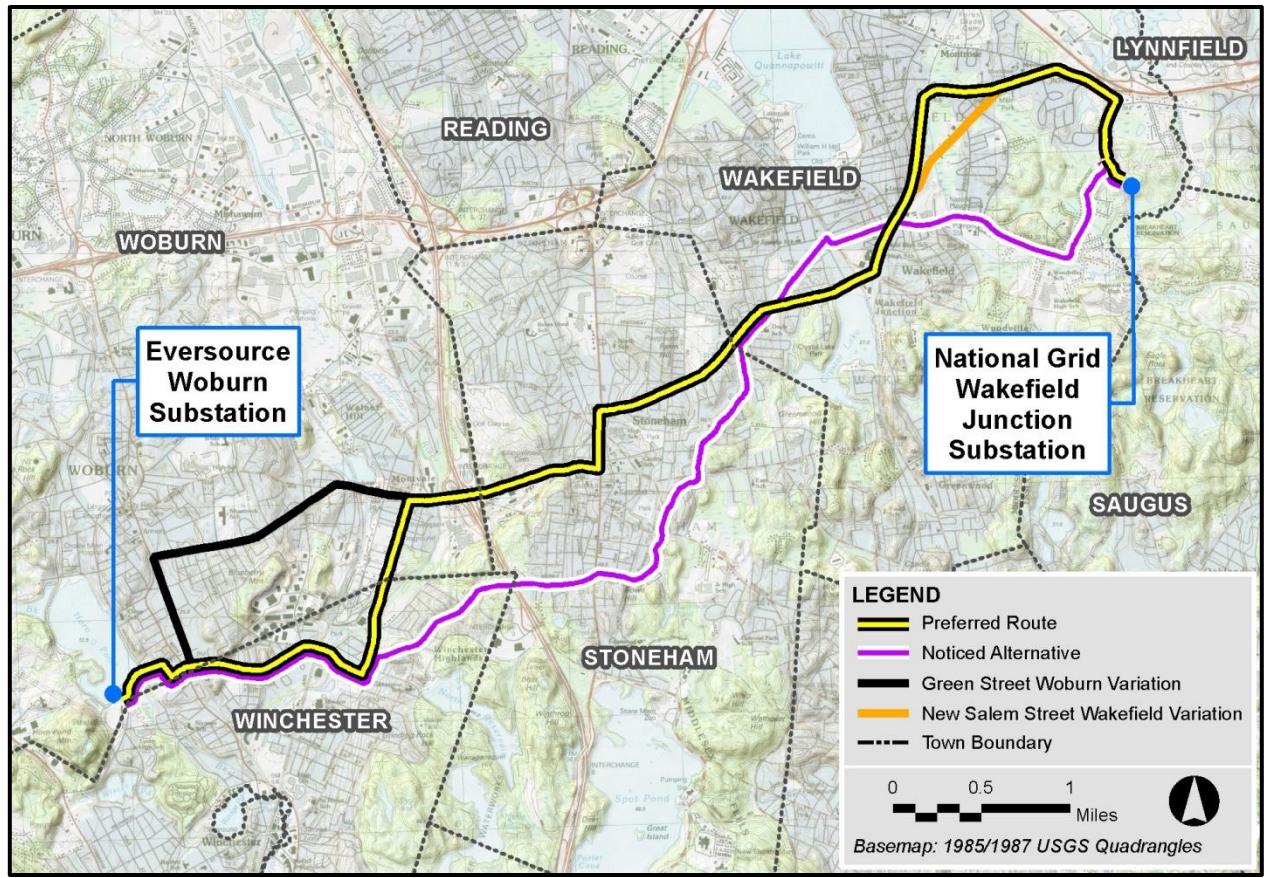
NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy and
New England Power Company d/b/a National Grid

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 69J, G.L. c. 164, § 72, and G.L. c. 40A, § 3, NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy (“Eversource”) located at 1 NSTAR Way, Westwood, Massachusetts 02090, and New England Power Company d/b/a National Grid (“National Grid”; together with Eversource, the “Companies”) located at 40 Sylvan Road, Waltham, Massachusetts, 02451, have filed with the Energy Facilities Siting Board (the “Siting Board”) and the Department of Public Utilities (the “Department”) three petitions in connection with the Companies’ proposal to construct and operate a new 8.53-mile, 345-kilovolt (“kV”) underground transmission line in Woburn, Winchester, Stoneham, and Wakefield (the “New Line”) and to modify two existing substations (Eversource’s Woburn Substation and National Grid’s Wakefield Junction Substation) to interconnect the New Line. The New Line and proposed substation modifications are herein referred to as the “Woburn-Wakefield Transmission Line Project” or the “Project.” The Companies propose the Project in order to reduce the potential for equipment overloads on the 345-kV electrical system under certain contingencies at peak load levels.

The Siting Board will conduct a public comment hearing to receive public comment on the Project at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 18, 2015, at the Stoneham Town Hall Auditorium, 35 Central Street, Stoneham, Massachusetts 02180 at 7 pm.

At the public comment hearing, Eversource and National Grid will present an overview of the proposed Project. Public officials and members of the public will then have an opportunity to ask questions and make comments about the proposed Project. The public comment hearing will be recorded by a court reporter. The public may also file written comments with the Presiding Officer. To file comments, please see the Section titled “Filing Instructions” towards the end of this Notice.

Pursuant to an Order issued by the Chairman of the Department, the Companies’ three petitions relating to the Project have been consolidated for hearing before the Siting Board, with the docket numbers EFSB 15-04/D.P.U. 15-140/15-141. Under G.L. c. 164, § 69J, the Siting Board will review the Companies’ filing to determine whether the proposed Project would provide a reliable energy supply with a minimum impact on the environment at the lowest possible cost. Under G.L. c. 164, § 72, the Siting Board will determine whether the proposed 345-kV transmission line is necessary, serves the public convenience, and is consistent with the public interest. Under G.L. c. 40A, § 3, the Siting Board will determine whether zoning exemptions are required for the Project and whether the present or proposed use of the land or structures is reasonably necessary for the convenience or welfare of the public.



The Companies' Preferred Transmission Line Route

The Companies' Preferred Route for the New Line exits the Woburn Substation and travels through Woburn, Winchester, Stoneham, and Wakefield for approximately 8.53 miles to Wakefield Junction Substation. Approximately 7.53 miles of the Preferred Route is under streets and approximately one mile is within an inactive right-of-way ("ROW") in Wakefield.

A more detailed description of the Preferred Route for the Project, by municipality, is provided below.

Woburn: The Preferred Route starts in Woburn at the Woburn Substation, crossing the northeastern extent of the substation property to enter Lake Avenue, heading generally northeast. The route then turns south onto Pickering Street for approximately 500 feet before turning generally east onto Border Street for another 500 feet where it crosses Main Street (Route 38) and enters Cross Street at the border of Woburn and Winchester. The Preferred Route continues on Cross Street (traversing under an elevated section of the MBTA Lowell Line) east into Winchester. After traveling along Cross Street and Washington Street in Winchester, the Preferred Route crosses into Woburn on Washington Street. The Preferred Route then travels east along Montvale Avenue, under Interstate Route 93 ("I-93"), into Stoneham.

Winchester: In Winchester, the Preferred Route travels east on Cross Street, passing beneath the elevated MBTA Lowell Line railroad tracks, to Washington Street, which it follows north into Woburn.

Stoneham: The Preferred Route in Stoneham begins on Montvale Avenue at the Woburn city line. The route continues east along Montvale Avenue to its intersection with Main Street. The route then continues north on Main Street until its intersection with Elm Street. The route then heads east on Elm Street to the Wakefield town line.

Wakefield: The Preferred Route follows Albion Street from the Stoneham town line, east/northeast to Broadway, following that roadway north, crossing the MBTA Haverhill Line railroad tracks at grade and continuing along Broadway to its intersection with an inactive railroad ROW owned by the MBTA in Wakefield (the “Wakefield Railroad ROW”). The route continues north on the Wakefield Railroad ROW for approximately one mile to its intersection with Salem Street. The route then turns east on Salem Street, then south onto Montrose Avenue, and southeast on the Wakefield Junction Substation driveway.

Potential Route Variation in Woburn

The Companies are proposing a potential variation to a portion of the Preferred Route in Woburn. The “Green Street Woburn Variation” of the Preferred Route begins at the intersection of Cross Street at the border between Woburn and Winchester and extends north along an inactive railroad ROW (the “Woburn Railroad ROW”) before turning east onto Green Street and from Green Street continuing east on Montvale Avenue. The route follows Montvale Avenue over the MBTA’s Lowell Line (via a bridge that is part of Montvale Avenue) to join the Preferred Route at the intersection in Woburn of Washington Street and Montvale Avenue. The Woburn Variation adds approximately 0.12 mile to the length of the Preferred Route.

Potential Route Variation in Wakefield

The Companies are proposing a potential variation to a portion of the Preferred Route in Wakefield. The “New Salem Street Wakefield Variation” would provide an in-street alternative to the Project segment along the northern portion of the Wakefield Railroad ROW. The route mirrors the Preferred Route to the point where the Wakefield Railroad ROW intersects with New Salem Street in Wakefield. Here, rather than follow the Wakefield Railroad ROW as does the Preferred Route, the variation heads northeast along New Salem Street to rejoin the Preferred Route on Salem Street. The Preferred Route uses the Wakefield Railroad ROW for approximately 1.0 mile. The variation follows the Wakefield Railroad ROW for approximately 0.5 mile and along New Salem Street for approximately 0.75 mile. The Wakefield Variation reduces the length of the Preferred Route by approximately 0.19 mile.

The Companies’ Alternative Transmission Line Route

The Companies also identified an Alternative Route for the New Line. The Alternative Route travels entirely under streets for approximately 8.01 miles in the municipalities of Woburn, Winchester, Stoneham and Wakefield. A more detailed description of the Alternative Route for the Project, by municipality, is provided below.

Woburn: As with the Preferred Route, the Alternative Route starts in Woburn at the Woburn Substation, crossing the northeastern extent of the substation property to enter Lake Avenue, heading generally northeast. The route then turns south onto Pickering Street for approximately 500 feet before turning generally east onto Border Street for another 500 feet where it crosses Main Street (Route 38) and enters Cross Street at the border of Woburn and Winchester.

Winchester: The Alternative Route continues on Cross Street in Winchester, passing beneath the elevated MBTA Lowell Line railroad tracks, then continues along Cross Street until its intersection with Washington Street. The Alternative Route then turns north on Washington Street for several blocks. It then heads east/northeast on Forest Street and under I-93 and into Stoneham.

Stoneham: The Alternative Route continues along Marble Street in Stoneham, continuing straight across Main Street (Route 28). The route turns north on Summer Street, then follows Summer Street to Spring Street. At Spring Street, the route advances east for approximately 250 feet, thereafter turning north on Green Street. The Alternative Route follows Green Street to the intersection of Green Street with Elm Street and Albion Street at the Stoneham/Wakefield town line.

Wakefield: Once it crosses into Wakefield, the Alternative Route continues northeast on Albion Street, travels underneath the MBTA Haverhill Line, turns south on North Avenue for approximately 300 feet, then bears east along West Water Street and southeast along Water Street. The Noticed Alternative Route then turns north onto Montrose Avenue to reach the junction of Montrose Avenue and the driveway at the Wakefield Junction Substation entrance. The route subsequently continues along the driveway to the Wakefield Junction Substation.

Woburn Substation

The Woburn Substation is located on a split lot, 438,038 square feet of which is located in the City of Woburn and 40,448 square feet of which is located in the Town of Winchester (the “Woburn Substation Site”). Access to the Woburn Substation Site is via Pond Street in Winchester, while all the substation components, including those proposed in connection with the Project, are located on the portion of the Substation Site located in Woburn.

In order to accommodate the New Line, Eversource proposes work at the Woburn Substation, including installation of the following equipment: (a) four 345-kV gas-insulated circuit breakers; (b) one 70-to-160 MVAR variable shunt reactor to be surrounded by a wall on three sides; (c) surge arresters; (d) cable termination structures; (e) a 100-foot shielding mast; and (f) control and protection equipment in a new 345-kV control room. The proposed modifications at the Woburn Substation would also include related site work associated with the Project.

Wakefield Junction Substation

National Grid’s Wakefield Junction Substation is at 123 Montrose Avenue in the eastern portion of the Town of Wakefield. Access to the property is from Montrose Avenue via a 0.17-mile-long driveway. To accommodate the New Line, National Grid proposes work at the existing Wakefield Junction Substation, including installation of the following equipment: (a) two 345-kV gas-insulated bus and circuit breakers with associated control and protection systems within existing buildings; (b) surge arresters; (c) voltage transformers (d) one 345-kV, 70-160 MVAR variable shunt reactor with oil containment, fire wall and associated support structures; (e) reconfiguration and expansion of an existing sound wall; and (f) one lightning mast approximately 55 feet in height. The proposed modifications at the Wakefield Junction Substation would also include related site work associated with the Project.

Public Review of the Companies’ Petitions

The general location, layout, dimensions, and configuration of the Preferred Route, Preferred Route Variation and Alternative Route for the Project are shown on maps and plans included in the

Companies' petitions. Copies of the Companies' petitions are available for public inspection in hard-copy format at the following locations:

- Energy Facilities Siting Board, One South Station, Boston, MA 02110
- Woburn Public Library, 45 Pleasant Street, Woburn, MA 01801;
- Woburn City Clerk, Woburn City Hall, 10 Common Street, Woburn MA 01801;
- Winchester Public Library, 80 Washington Street, Winchester, MA 01890;
- Winchester Town Clerk, Town Hall, 71 Mt. Vernon St., 1st Floor, Winchester, MA 01890;
- Stoneham Public Library, 431 Main St., Stoneham, MA 02180
- Stoneham Town Clerk, Town Hall, 35 Central St., 1st Floor, Stoneham, MA 02180
- Lucius Beebe Memorial Library, 345 Main St., Wakefield, MA 01880
- Wakefield Town Clerk, William J. Lee Memorial Town Hall, 1 Lafayette St., Wakefield, MA 01880

In addition, the Company's petitions are electronically available via the Department's website at: <http://web1.env.state.ma.us/DPU/FileRoom/dockets/bynumber>. Enter "EFSB15-04" (with no spaces) into the search box.

Intervention and Participation

Persons or groups who wish to be involved in the Siting Board proceeding beyond providing public comments at the hearing may file written comments, and/or seek to intervene as a party or to participate as a limited participant. Intervention as a party allows the person or organization to participate in the evidentiary phase of this proceeding, including evidentiary hearings in Boston, and grants the right to appeal a final decision. A limited participant may receive many of the documents that will be submitted to the Siting Board and present written or oral argument to the Siting Board after evidentiary hearings conclude.

Any person who is interested in intervening as a party or participating as a limited participant in this proceeding must file a written petition with the Siting Board. A petition to intervene or a petition to participate as a limited participant must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 980 C.M.R. § 1.00, the Siting Board's procedural rules, which can be found on the Board's website at:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/energy-utilities-clean-tech/energy-facilities-siting-board/>

Once on the website, click on "Relevant Regulations" and then click on the document entitled: 980 CMR 1.00.

Filing Instructions

Written comments on the Company's petitions, or a petition to intervene or participate as a limited participant, must be filed in three places:

First, a petition to intervene or a petition to participate as a limited participant must be filed in hard copy with: Robert J. Shea, Presiding Officer, Energy Facilities Siting Board, One South Station, Boston, Massachusetts 02110 no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on **December 2, 2015**.

Second, the comments or petition must be filed with the Siting Board in electronic format using one of the following methods: (1) by e-mail attachment to dpu.efiling@state.ma.us and to

robert.j.shea@state.ma.us; or (2) on a PC-compatible compact disc filed with the Presiding Officer. The text of the email or the CD label must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (EFSB 15-04/D.P.U. 15-140/15-141); (2) the name of the person or entity submitting the filing; and (3) a brief description of the document. The electronic filing should also include the name, title and telephone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing.

Third, the comments or petition must be sent in hard copy and electronically to counsel for the Companies, David Rosenzweig, Esq., Keegan Werlin LLP, 265 Franklin Street, Boston, MA 02110, drosen@keeganwerlin.com.

Any person desiring further information regarding this Notice, including information about intervention or participation in the proceeding may also contact the Presiding Officer at the address or telephone number below:

Robert J. Shea, Presiding Officer
Energy Facilities Siting Board
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110
(617) 305-3514